

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 01774 211903Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----109169 211905Z /40  
O 211855Z FEB 78  
FM USMISSION USNATO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9449  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 01774

EXDIS

US SALT TWO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, SALT, NAC  
SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR FEB 24 NAC SALT BRIEFING

1. MISSION REQUESTS APPROVAL FOR THE FOLLOWING SALT PRESS RELEASE FOR THE FEBRUARY 24 NAC CONSULTATION. DRAFT FORMAT IS IN CLOSE ACCORD WITH PRESS RELEASES FOR PREVIOUS COUNCIL BRIEFINGS. OUR INCLINATION IS NOT TO CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF HIGH OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON IN THE RELEASE ITSELF TO AVOID UNDUE SPECULATION ABOUT THE STATUS OF SALT. HOWEVER, THE PRESS IS LIKELY TO BE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF TOP WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, AND THEREFORE WE THINK WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND ALONG THE LINES OF THE CONTINGENCY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS IN PARA 3.

2. BEGIN TEXT: A CONSULTATION ON THE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS, WHICH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONDUCTING IN GENEVA, WAS HELD TODAY BY THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IN BRUSSELS. AMBASSADOR PAUL WARNKE, DIRECTOR OF THE US ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, AND OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON AND

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THE SALT DELEGATION, BRIEFED THE COUNCIL ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE US REPRESENTATIVES HAD A USEFUL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, INCLUDING A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION OF SUBJECTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE ALLIANCE. THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE REMARKS OF THE US REPRESENTATIVES. THE US

DELEGATION TO NATO WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE COUNCIL INFORMED ON ANY DEVELOPMENTS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE THAT MAY ARISE BETWEEN CONSULTATIONS ON SALT. END TEXT.

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3. CONTINGENCY Q'S AND A'S

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Q. CAN YOU TELL US THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE US TEAM?

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A. THE WASHINGTON CONTINGENT WAS COMPOSED OF:

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS DAVID AARON, DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF POLITICO/MILITARY AFFAIRS, DEPT. OF STATE, LESLIE GELB, SENIOR NSC STAFF MEMBER REGINALD BARTHOLOMEW, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS WALTER SLOCOMBE, AND REAR ADMIRAL EDWARD WELCH, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. THE SALT DELEGATION OFFICIALS INCLUDED, BESIDES AMBASSADOR WARNKE, ALTERNATE CHAIRMAN OF THE US SALT DELEGATION AMBASSADOR RALPH EARLE II, AND LT. GENERAL EDWARD L. ROWNY.

Q. IS THE REASON FOR THIS HIGH LEVEL MEETING THE IMMINENT CONCLUSION OF A SALT II AGREEMENT?

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A. AS A NATO SPOKESMAN, I CANNOT COMMENT ON THE PROGRESS OF BILATERAL TALKS INVOLVING MEMBER NATIONS. THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSULTATION WAS ONE IN A LONG AND REGULAR SERIES. THE HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE REFLECTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US AND NATO PLACE ON THIS PROCESS. IT ALSO REAFFIRMS PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT, MADE HERE LAST JANUARY, THAT THE US WOULD INTENSIFY THIS CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE THE FOCUS OF SUCH DELIBERATIONS.

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Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT TOPICS WERE COVERED?

A. I CANNOT COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE IN ANY DETAIL. IN GENERAL, THE ALLIES WERE BROUGHT UP TO DATE ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SALT TWO NEGOTIATIONS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THEY RECEIVED A GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF THE STRATEGIC AND THEATRE NUCLEAR BALANCE.

Q. IS THIS ASSESSMENT A USUAL PRESENTATION?

A. THE COUNCIL RECEIVES SUCH ASSESSMENTS PERIODICALLY FROM VARIOUS NATIONAL AND NATO SOURCES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT AND SALDEL APPROVAL OF DRAFT. GLITMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014